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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/594,327	09/27/2006	Ryoji Noyori	129542	3317
25944	7590	08/13/2008		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC			EXAMINER	
P.O. BOX 320850			GALE, KELLETTE	
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1621	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/13/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/594,327	Applicant(s) NOYORI ET AL.
	Examiner KELLETTE GALE	Art Unit 1621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 11-31 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 12,14-16,18,19,21,22 and 24-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 11,13,17,20,23,26 and 29 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/27/2006

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

In a correspondence dated May 16, 2008, applicants have elected claims 11, 13, 17, 20, 23, 26, and 29 without traverse. This action is respectfully acknowledged by the Examiner.

Information Disclosure Statement

The references listed on the Information Disclosure Statement dated September 27, 2006 have been considered by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 11, 13, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al (J. Org. Chem. 2002, 67, 1712-1715).

Watanabe et al disclose a process for the production of an optically active alcohol wherein a ruthenium complex is used in the presence of a hydrogen donor (formic acid). Please see scheme 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 11, 13, 17, 20, 23, 26, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al.

Applicant claims a process for producing an optically active alcohol comprising placing a metal complex and a ketone in a polar solvent and stirring the mixture under pressurized hydrogen to hydrogenate the ketone compound to thereby obtain the optically active alcohol.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art

(MPEP §2141.01)

Watanabe et al disclose a process for the production of an optically active alcohol wherein a ruthenium complex is used in the presence of a hydrogen donor (formic acid). Please see scheme 1.

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims

(MPEP §2141.02)

The difference between the prior art and the claims is the limitation that there is no base present. Also, the limitation of the ketone having a halogen present on it is different.

Finding of prima facie obviousness

Rational and Motivation (MPEP §2142-2143)

One having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention would find it obvious to utilize the process as taught by Watanabe et al in the presence or absence of a base. One having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention would find it obvious to utilize the same process as taught by Watanabe et al using a haloketone. One having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention would be motivated to do so as it is understood that any ketone may be used with or without a base.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KELLETTE GALE whose telephone number is (571)272-8038. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:30am-3:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, YVONNE EYLER can be reached on 571-272-0871. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kellette Gale
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600

July 29, 2008

/SHAILENDRA - KUMAR/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1621